NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETS BUTTOR AND PROPRIETOR

CYPICS B. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NAISAU STS.

New York, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

We have to-day some additional items from resources showing how the fright at Sherman's approach to the seacoast is spreading in Georgia and South Carolina. All the officials, civil and military, have issued fierce and feverith proclamations, calling on every male, old and young, able to shoulder a musket, to immedi ately report for duty. The Mayors of Savannah and Charleston, as well as the revel army officers commanding in those places, have rushed before the already terrified communities in documents of this char acter, probably by this means adding considerably to the panic. Governor Brown, of Georgia, has issued three more proclamations on the crists. But in Charleston according to the Republican of that city, even these stirring papers do not bring out the citizens; for it appears a military guard has to go around the town and drag them out of their hiding piaces. General Dick Taylor has been assigned to the command of all the Alabama and Georgia reserves, with beadquarters at Savannah. The Savannah Republican of the 1st just, gives some further particulars of the fight with General Foster's force, on the 30th utt., near Grahamsville, South Carolina. General Gestavus Smith commanded the rebels on the occasion, and the engagement is admitted to have been a drawn battle. On the night of the 30th seven or eight Union transports loaded with troops were reported going up Broad river, S. C. and another fight thomast day was expected.

There is little new of importance to report from th armies on James river. A beavy exchange of shots, which, however, was of short duration, and did but trifling damage on the Union side, occurred in front of the Army of the Potomac, in the vicinity of the Jerusa Ism road, on last Sunday evening, between the opposing forces. The rebais have considerably moderated their battery and picket firing within the past few days General Meade has been brevetled a major general in the regular army.

General Buford, commanding at Helena, Arkansas coully arrested at the mouth of White river forty-five persons for attempting to purchase cotton under permits from the Treasury agent at Memphis. The agent remonstrated against the summary proceedings; but his application for an investigation was refused by General Buford, who has closed his lines against the entrance of all straggling civilians. As soon as disovered they are required to leave immediately.

Large quantities of clothing for Union soldiers now beld as prisoners by the rebels were lately sent to them from Memphis, via Mobile.

yesterday from Folly Island, S. C., on Saturday last, reports the sinking in Charleston harbor, on the night of the lat mat, by our gunboats, of a side-wheel steams which was attempting to run the blockade. Her name is not given. All her crew were captured; but her captain and pilot escaped. New Orleans advices of the 25th ult. state that Gen

ral tenby was then sufficiently recovered to attend daily to his official business. The Mississippi river, in the vicinity of Merganzia, Louisiana, had risen eighteen feet in one week.

CONGRESS.

grees yesterday the President's annual Message was resalved and read in both bouses. The annual reports of the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Navy and of the Postmaster General were size presented. We publish to

the HERALD this morning—
The annual Message of the President:

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury;

sis of the Report of the Secretary of the Navy. read, it was ordered that the usual number of copies be printed. The reports of the Treasury and Navy Secretaries were laid on the table. A resolution was adopted requesting the President to furnish any information in sition or overture recently made by British subjects in aid of the rebellion, when the Senate went into executive Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, as Chief Justice of the Sup eme Court of the United States fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Taney On the opening of the doors an adjournment took place.

In the House of Representatives, besides the reading of

the President's Message and the appropriate disposition of the other official documents, several other matters were brought to the attention of the members. Bil duced, and referred to proper committees, to probibit the exportation of gold and aliver coin, to pre rent gold and silver being paid or received for more than sheir real value, to prevent government notes being passed for less than their Treasury value, providing for the administration of an oath of loy and for the forfeiture of the fees of disloyal land holders. A resolution to print forty thousand extr. copies of the President's Message was referred to the Committee. Resolutions were adopted instruct a provision to exempt from taxation on Inheritances the interests of widows in the estates of their duct of the War to report on the causes of the reverses to our arms on the Red river, Louisiana, under consider the propriety of reporting a bill to prohibit the transportation of merchandise to any portion of our terin possession of rebeis, and to regulate the purchase, by persons not connected with the army or navy. of the products of the soil of such territory. A jo intion in relation to the tobacco tax was introduced Without transacting other business of importance, the

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The election in this city yesterday for Aldermen Councilmen and school officers passed off very quietly.
We give full reports of the results in another portion of this morning's HERALD.

The steamship Costs Rics arrived at this port last evening, from Aspinwall on the 28th ult , bringing the San Francisco mails of the 13th, passengers and over three bundred and eighty thousand dollars in specie The following is her specie list --

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FROM KAR FRANCISCO.

J. B. Newton & Co. 428,000 Order. \$13,591

H. Cohn & Co. 22,000 Order. \$13,591

H. Cohn & Co. 22,000 FROM ARPINWALL.

DeWitt, Kitle & Co. 30,000 Percz, Planas & Obsr
Wells, Fargo & Co. 128 A07

A. Rich & Bros. 6 109 S. L. Isasos & Asch. 400

A. B. Kosenbaum. 10,180 Rhon & Munoz. 1,198

Scholle & Bros. 23,000 Famon Vallerino. 500

J. Straus. Bres. & Co. 47,903

The news from South America by this arrival shows that the difficulty between Spain and Peru has not yet approached any pearer a settlement. A commissioner had been sent by the Chilean government to represent to Admiral Pinzon, commanding the Spaulsh feet at the Chinena leignds, that if bostilities were commonced against Peru ali the South American republics would co sider it a common cause and unite for her assistance. The necessity of restoring the captured islands t authorities was also urged. The Admiral replied that he had no power to negotiate in the matter, and that all such representations, to receive attention, must be made directly to his government. The excitement at Panama regarding the science by United States officers on board the steamer Salvador of rebel pirates had subsided, and it was not publicly known whether or not the priseners had been yet sent to the United States. In New Granada a disturbance had ocsurred between some soldiers and civilians at Carthagens but it did not parlake of a revolutionary character. Genrailroad works. From other portions of South and

A Washington despatch says that extensive evasions of the requirements of the Internal Revenue law on the part of the proprietors of popular patent medicines in the Sixth Congressional district, in this city, bave re-cently been brought to light. It is said that these men, is the country, have been for some time selling their medicines without having the necessary stamps affixed. Their establishment has been closed until an examination of the charges can be made. Our readers will retuember the late temporary closing of breweries in this city on a similar allegation.

The military headquarters in Bleecker street are

daily througed by persons from the Southern States de-siring to register their names, in accordance with the orders of General Dix. Eight hundred altogether had

registered up to lest evening.

The transmission of the President's Message from Washington to this city yesterday was commenced over the American Telegraph Company's wires at twenty-seven twenty-five minutes past two.

Mr. Goldwin Smith, Regius Professor of Modern History

audience, among whom were many ladies, at the root of the New York Historical Society, last evening. I subject was a bistory of the university with which he is connected, including nineteen colleges, many of which iste back to an early period in the British empire. The Professor was warmly applanded, and at the close of his iscourse received a vote of thanks from the meeting.

Two passenger trains collided about three c'clock yes, terday afternoon on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, five miles east of Martineburg. The conductor and baguage master of one of the trains were killed and five other persons were seriously injured. The engines, tenders, baggage cars and two or three passenger cars were completely smashed.

The Navy Department have taken the prize steame Annie for the use of the government at the appraised value of sixty five thousand dollars. The carge, consisting of over five hundred bales of cotton, will be sold under the secree of the court. by the Marshal, this day, at Pinto's stores, Atlantic deck, Brooklyn
Two parties of young boys, one styling themselves the

Macs," and belonging to the Twentieth ward, and the other being designated the "Minutes," composed of your sters living in the Twenty-second ward, met last evening at the corner of Eleventh avenue and Fortysecond street, and engaged in a street fight, during which ones and other missiles were thrown and pistols fired. one of them, named Edward Watson, was shot in th preast by Joseph May, and died in a few minutes after. May was arrested and locked up.

During a quarrel yesterday afternoon in Washington

Market, a French cook, named Joseph Kentalla, as al eged, assaulted and severely cut with a cleaver tw other men, named Gabe and Brady, and fired a pistol at and the others were detained as witnesses.

The entire net proceeds of the Metropolitan Fair in this city for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission were \$1,180,091 27. as reported by the chairman of the Fi-

The excitement in Toronto, Canada, relative to ti Fenian Brotherhood has been revived by an attack by members of that order, on Monday night, on the recme of au Orange lodge, in which considerable damage was done, including the mutilation of a fine portrait of Queen

The municipal elections were held in Cambridge heisea, Springfield, Lawrence, New Bedford, Taunton and Fall River, Massachusetts, on Monday.

The stock market improved yesterday. Gold was

higher. Government securities were strong at a large

firmer feeling, particularly is imported merchandise Comestic produce was somewhat irregular. The pro-posed Tax and Tariff bills have the effect to restrict sales 'Change the floor market advanced 5c. a 10c., with oderate demand. Wheat opened 1c. a 2c. higher, but plosed dull and drooping. Corn was unsettled, while out Pork was firmer, with rather more doing, while beef we derate demand. Whiskey was firmer. Freights were

essie this week; but it was evident that the limited re-celpts sions prevented a decided decline. As it was everything was in favor of the buyer, and there was We to IRe a 18ke, with the bulk of the sales at from were sold at 93/c. a 13c. a 14c. Sheep and lambs were a trifle firmer. The sales were at from \$4 to \$6 a \$7 50 12%c. The receipts were 5.777 beeves, 93 cows, 1,275 vests, 19,274 sheep and tambs and 25,436 hogs.

The President's Message-The State

The last annual message of the first ferm of President Lincoln is before our readers. As usual with all his State papers, it a plain, unpretending document; and in this respect, and in the matter of brevity, Lincoln is an immense improvement upon Buchanan and poor Pierce, with their heavy and dismal electionering pamphlets. It is an encouraging report on the state of the nation, and embodies various timely and practical recommendations to the two houses, although in some things of great moment it falls short of the mark.

For example, Mr. Lincoln, setting out with the declaration that "the condition of our foreign affairs is reasonably satisfactory," lows directly after with the statement that "we have strictly maintained neutrality between the belligerents in Mexico," and there stops. He has nothing to suggest upon that subject. Has be forgotten that the Monroe doctrine was a plank of the Baltimore platform, and that it was expected he would face the music He intimates that the affair of the rebel buccaneer Florida will require delicate handling; but he fails to tell us whether this case has been left in the hands of the Chevalier Webb or has been taken up by the Secretary of State; so that we cannot determine whether we are to have a speedy rupture or an exhausting diplomatic discussion with Brazil. His precautions in reference to the public safety along the Canadian border, including certain hints to the Canadian authorities, will meet the approval of the country, and serve, we hope, as a wholesome warning to our rebel sympathizing neighbors. . With regard to the Treasury, "it is as well

as could be expected." Our national debt is by no means so large as exhibited in the statistics of Thurlow Weed; but still it is accumulating. Consequently more taxes will be necessary, and more loans. In this connection the President's suggestions in favor of exempting limited amounts of public securities held by ind viduals from taxation and seizure for debt, and his views touching the national banking system are of the bighest importance. whether judicious or inexpedient, in view of the general welfare.

Touching the operations of our armies during the past year the two houses are referred to the report of the Secretary of War, without any puffing of Mr. Stanton. Not so with the Secretary of the Navy; for, according to the Message, old Grandfather Welles has accomplished the most wonderful things in the way of "efficiency and success." We conclude that whatever changes may be made in the Cabinet, Welles in a fixture, and will go on squandering his millions upon experimental Monitors and steam boilers and engines to the end of the war. The blockade runners at Nassau will chuckle over "Old Abe's" glorification of Welles.

The rapid settlement of our new Territories. and their development into new States, and the universal increase of the population, wealth, Mal Mosquers was in the interior of Causs rushing on resources, forces and prosperity of all the loval

States and Territories, receive a liberal share of the President's attention. His array of facts, too, and his figures of the late national election, may well be presented to the world as proving that, instead of being weakened, the loyal section of the Union is vastly stronger now in men, means, materials and resources of every description than at the beginning of this gigantic war. We have this extraordinary and most gratifying fact established on the returns of the late Presidential election as compared with those of 1860. We are positively assured from these returns that our losses in men from the war have been much exaggerated in the general estimates made from time to time, and that our accessions of able bodied refugees from the South and immigrants from Europe have been much undervalued.

The message refers to General Sherman's expedition as exhibiting our increased relative military strength over that of the rebellion, from the opinion of the General-in-Chief of his ability to try this grand experiment. Next the free State movements in Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana are deemed worthy of congratulation while Maryland is exultingly held up as "an example of complete success." She has cast out the devil by which she was tormented, and though it "may seek to tear her, it will woo her no more." In brief, emancipation has fixed the business for "Maryland, my Maryland."

In conclusion, being entirely satisfied that Jeff. Davis will have nothing but independence or subjugation, Mr. Lincoln declares that he must and will be subdued. The door of amnesty to repenting rebels, however, still remains open, though there is no telling how soon the dire necessities of war may close it. When the rebels lay down their arms there will be peace: but at the same time they are admonished that Abraham Lincoln adheres to his emancipation proclamations. He advecates immediate action upon the proposed constitutional amendment forever abolishing and interdicting slavery within the limits of the United States, but he holds, nevertheless, that slavery is already abolished in the rebel lious States by his proclamations. This recog nition must come with the submission of those States, whatever may be set down in the Baltimore platform.

Thus the slaveholders of Rebeldom are placed between two consuming fires. If they still adhere to Jeff. Davis they must give up slavery in giving up their negroes, and a farm to boot of fifty acres to each negro soldier; and if they abandon Davis they must subscribe to Old Abe's emancipation proclamations. This, we think, is one of the weak points of the message, and the other most prominent is Gideon Welles. And so we turn it over to the diges tion of the two houses of Congress and our

Our Navy-Its Creation, Achievements

We defer the publication of the annual re port of the Secretary of the Navy till to-morrow or next day. This document gives to a minute view of this great division of the national power, and lays before us the present condition of the service. It goes with some detail, into almost every point that has any interest in connection with our navy, whether the interest be practical or hissent navy has been produced by this war. A the commencement of the rebellion we were people with a good naval history, with prono traditions of achievements on the sea, but sub stantially without ships. Our navy was re duced to the minimum peace establishment, and the better part of it was on foreign service Small as our navy was, only a small proportion of it was comprised of steam vessels, and all others were useless. Thus apparently helpthat required the enforcement of a more exten sive blockade than was ever before attempted: and that required also the presence of cruiser on foreign seas to protect our commerce, and the possession of powerful vessels able to cope at once with other armed vessels and with the best built forts. Our national energy was equal to the occasion, and we created a navy. No other national navy in the world now equals in power the one that the United States has thus put on the sea in four years. Two hundred and three ships, with an aggre gate of one thousand six bundred and thirtyone guns, have been built for our navy in that time, or are now near completion; but unfortunately very few of these vessels are fast sailers. Sixty-two of these are iron-clad, and of these the Roanoke, New Ironsides, Dunderberg, Puritan and Dictator are fit for sea service and able to cope with the most powerful vessels o the same class that England and France have yet attempted to build. Men for this great navy are now had in abundance, though expert sea men are still scarce. And this immense power has been, in the four years of the war, an average annual expense of seventy millions represented in currency. In this expense is to b counted the construction of all the vessels Subtracting the amount properly chargeable to that account and charging, as the real expense of the navy, only the remainder, it is found that this immense navy coess us less in a tim of war than the navies of England and France

cost those countries in times of peace. Among the achievements of our navy is the alleged enforcement of the blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast. The Secretary glances in this connection at the commercia morality of English merchants, and very justly classes their present efforts in the blookade business with their efforts in the Chinese oplum trade. He glances also at the ports of Hallfax. Bermuda and Nassan, as "ports that will al ways be in sympathy with the enemies of this country," and in that phrase gives the real reason why they ought to be ours. But the success of the blockade is shown in the fact that there is now only one port that blockade runners can get into, although, we see by the English papers, that the blockade runners succeed in getting in and out of Charleston. But the exceptional port is Wilmington. The blockade, says Mr. Welles, is not violated with impunity even there, since the aggregate of captures at that place is thirteen millions of dollars. Half of this sum has been divided as prize money and the remainder is a general benefit to the service and the country, since it has established a fund that, by investment, pays the entire pension roll and relieves the national Treasury to that extent. It is the conclusion of the Secretary that Wilmington, owing to the peculiarity of its situation, cannot be absolutely closed without the co-operation of the army to enable us to carry forts that are in such shoal water that

the heavily armed ships cannot get at them.

Mr. Welles refers to the Alabama, Florida and Georgia, and pays his respects to Captain Semmes as a "dishonored and beaten corsair," who "cannot relieve himself of his obligations as a prisoner until he shall be regularly exchanged." In respect to the Florida we are given only a naked statement of the facts as already known. It is given as probable that "no valid transfer of ownership bas ever taken place" in the case of the Tallahassee, and that she is now, as she was when a blockade runner, "registered in Liverpool as a British ship." If this shall prove to be true it will only make a little more clear the fact that all the maritime resistance our government has met with has been English in every particular. Attention is called to the fact that throughout their several careers these "English built and English manned rovers" have never sent in for adjudication and condemnation a single ship or

Very graceful recognition is made of the varied brilliant services of our naval heroes, and especially of the brilliant achievement of Lieutenant Cushing in the destruction of the Albemarle. The Secretary evidently appreciated how inadequate would be any merely verbal recognition of the services of Admiral Farragut, and so, for the reward d the Old Salamander he recommends the creation of the rank of vice admiral-s rank analagous in the navy to that of lieu tenant general in the army. Let this act of simple justice be urged upon Congress.

.In view of the present character of the navy another recommendation made by the Secre tary is worthy of notice. This is the establish ment of a navy yard for iron-clads, at which such vessels can be repaired and built. Our navy yards are shown to be at heat quite naequal to the demands of the navy; "while the government has not an establishment where s shaft can be made for our steamers or plate for our fron-clads." It is re commended that such an establishment be located in the Delaware, near Philadelphia, as there every requisite is found-fresh water, extensive river front, proximity to a great city, and distance from the sea, and consequently capability for defence in case of foreign war.

The actual expenditure of the last fiscal year was \$85,738,292. The estimate for the year ending June 30, 1866, in \$112,000,000.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General-Union and Rebet Reports

Postmaster General Dennison has presented very comprehensive report of the official doings of his department for the past fiscal year. Considering the vast amount of informa tion contained in it, it may be regarded as possessing the virtue of brevity in a degree rarely to be met with in a public document of the kind. There seems to be scarcely a useless word in it. The recommendations are few, and confined to the actual necessities or obvious advantage of the department, while the fiscal statements are concise and easily understand able to the most unfinancial comprehension. The report will be found on the second page of this morning's paper. The department, although not yet quite defraying its own expenditures, is in a truly favorable condition. and gradually approaching the period when it will not only pay its own way, but return a bandsome revenue to the public treasury. When it is considered that during the term 1859 to 1861 the expenditures over receipts showed an average annual excess of nearly five and three-quarter millions, while the past year the excess was much less than a quarter of a million-barely rising two hundred thousand-there are certainly good grounds for congratulation to the country. The entire receipts for the year are twelve million four hundred fifty-three dollars, showing an excess over the receipts in 1861, the first year of the rebellion of eight bundred and twenty-three thousand two hundred and fifty-four dollars. This fact shows what an expensive affair it was to carry

on our postal system in the Southern States. It is a pleasant feature in this report to find that while the expenditures the past year were less than the estimate by over three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars, the receipts were nearly three millions and three quarters more than the estimate-or forty-two and fiveeighths per cent. This would indicate that there was something faulty in the calculation but it should be remembered that in times of war, when new cities and Territories are occu pied, and the Post Office follows wherever the Union armies go and stay, it is a very difficult task to estimate the receipts and expenditures in the matter of postage. Besides, the miscalculation is on the right side, and the American people have no cause to complain. We refer to the report itself for information

which will be found important to all who take an interest in our postal affairs. They will find there accounts and statistics which will strike them with amazement at the vastness of the American postal system, and they will wonder that so young a nation can have so thoroughly perfected, upon so gigantic a scale, an institution that has done as much for humanity and civilization as any of modern times. Let them take this report of the Union Postmaster General and compare it with that of the rebel Postmaster General, an abstract of which we lately published. While the Union official refers to arrangements with foreign governments all over and around the world, for the purpose of facilitating the postal inter-communication of our citizens wherever a Christian or almost a pagan government exists; while it will be seen that our system yields a revenue greater than when the rebellion commenced, when fifteen States claimed to be out of the Union, and established a post office department of their own ; while it will be noticed that the Union Postmaster-in-Chief refers to long lines of oceanic, and coast, and river routes on the Atlantic and the Pacific and in the immense interior of the United States, to magnificent steamships which are to be placed on foreign routes by government, to the princely items of expenditure for the public good, and to the recommendations and numberless details for the benefit of the writing, reading, busy, prosperous and loyal people of the Union-let them, we say, look at this grand report and then at the report of the official who runs the rebel post office machine, and it will be found that there, with a rate of postage three times that of the North, they have not reached three millions of receipts, and that a large portion of the country, which it was expected would not cover the expenses of keeping up postage routes, had not been heard from. There is probably no single department of

either government which so signally demons-

trakes the greatness and soundness of the North and the littleness and weakness of the South as the apports of their respective Postmaster Generals.

The Letter of the Chevatter Webb-Is It

When we come to closely examine the remarkable letter of the Chevaller Webb-pub lished in our issue of yesterday-and when we critically consider the peculiar circumstances of its first appearance in print, we feel strongly inclined to entertain the suspicion that it is counterfeit. The arguments for and against this suspicion are certainly very weighty; but when the scales are evenly held the arguments for the suspicion appear the heavier of the two. Let us place the facts, the theories and the logic of the matter before an impartial, inte rested and inquisitive public, and endeavor to sift the affair to the bottom and discover the The two papers in which this letter first ap-

eared have the unfortunate reputation of eing conducted by Bohemians, whose line of business, deliberately adopted, is to manufacture great sensutions from bogus materials. We have not yet forgotten the Howard hoax, called the bogus proclamation, with which these Bohemian papers were connected. The miscegenation pamphlet humbug has been tacitly acknowledged as their invention. The counterfeit report of the rebel Secretary Ma!lory, which attracted some attention in Europe, has been traced to the doors of these Robe mians of the press. Now, after all this experience in forgery, there is nothing improbable in the theory that they have forged this letter purporting to be from the Chevalier Webb. The manner of its publication, no less than the character of the journals in which, it first anpeared, throws doubts moon its authenticity In one paper it is said to have been received by a bark which arrived at Hampton Roads. In the other it is published without the usual preface. Why should the bark story be given in the one account and omitted in the other? The Bohemians should be shrewder in their

On the face of it the letter seems genuine. It is written in just the Chevalier Webb's pompous, egotistical, round-about style. Rut this style is one easily imitated, just as President Lincoln's was; and as some of the Bohemians were once employed upon the Chevalier Webb's own paper it is quite likely that they can write just as he does. The matter of the letter is also in the Chevalier's vein, and it is precisely what we predicted he would say. In the HERALD of November 30 we stated that "We have no doubt that the Chevalier Webb has written as long a correspondnce on the subject as any that Mr. Seward has yet written about the rebellion. We expect to see Lord Palmerston out up in mincement, all ready for a Yankee Christmas pie. We have no doubt the Emperor Napoleon will be so thoroughly excoriated that he will wish he had never left Ham nor Palmo's mint juleps. And we expect to see Brazil eulogized to the skie as the warmest and truest friend the United States ever had." Now the letter agrees with these predictions is every particular, and what s more probable than that the Bohemians. knowing how thoroughly we understand the Chevalier Webb, should take our editorial and concoct a letter from the hints there published The trick was a shabby one, and rather stale; but it was just like Bohemian tricks in gen-

In spite of the imitation of Webb's style and manner, the letter, when attentively scanned, seems to be over done. Exaggeration is the eculiarity of all imitations. Louis the Foureenth declared "L'Etat c'est moi;" but this letter makes the Chevalier Webb declare "I am the State Department." The Chevalier's personal and diplomatic regard for Secretary of superiority. On the other hand, the whole rgument of the letter is sound for the Union. and terribly severe against all allies of the rebels. This, of itself, would prove the letter genuine; for the Bohemians are copperheads, and their forgeries are usually designed to injure the Union cause. Still this Union tene of the letter may have been merely a cunning device to make it pass current more readily; for anybody would have detected the deceit had the name of the Chevalier Webb, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, been signed to a copperhead epistle of the sort daily published in the organs of the hotel burners of this city. Failing to trace the letter to any authentic source, there fore, and rendered suspicious by all these evices of its bogus authorship, we await more reliable advices from the Chevalier Webb before giving credence to its gennineness, and we recommend our readers, including President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, to follow our

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?-In Congress, or Monday, Mr. Pendleton, of Ohio, offered esolution requesting the President to comnunicate the report made by Colonel Thomas M. Key of an interview between himself and General Howell Cobb, on the 14th day of June, 1862, on the banks of the Chickshominy, by the authority of the War Department, on the subject of the exchange of prisoners. Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, promptly objected to the resolution, and so it fell to the ground. Some time before the election it was stated that an officer of McClellan's staff had an interview at one time with Howell Cobb, and it was insinuated that something very mysterious, if not positively disloyal, took place at that meeting. Now it appears that the President has a full report of it in his possession. We hope he will give it to us. There may be something useful in it. At all events, for some reason or other, the republicans seem very anxious to conceal it. A Good CMEN.-It is said that when the

Congressmen met on the floor of the House on Monday they were all in the best of humor. Pleasant greetings, handsbaking of political opponents, and merry laughter all round was the order of the day. We hope this may be regarded as a good omen of the humor with which they are going to enter on the business of this very brief session. . We expect that they will be as good natured towards the public as to each other, and hurry up some good legislation, over which the country may rejoice, between this and the 4th of March. THREE CENT PIECES. - We have seen it stated

that the Secretary of the Treasury intends to introduce into the fractional currency three cent paper tokens in order to relieve the presest difficulty of making small change. We would submit to the Secretary, and also to the Director of the United States Mint in Philadel-

phis, whether it would not be better to get t consent of Congress to coin three cent copp pleces. They would be far more desiral than paper shinplasters of that denomination and would not be liable to mutilation or become defaced. According to the prese standard they would be but about two-falls the size of the old copper coin-nine cents representative value being only equal weight to two of the original coppers.

The Military Arrests. THE NUMBER REGISTERING ON THE INDREASE. The recent arrests that have been made of Southern tens falling to report at headquarters has had a very g effect upon the delinquents, and they are waking up the fact that orders must be obeyed. Business on from that hour up to six o'clock in the evening a le string of applicants are waiting in the reception room their turn at the wheel. All sorts of dedges are received by those "somewhat in a hurry" to get in first a lurry through the examination; but Major Havner is itime and makes the examination thorough, impress all with the importance of making a "clean breast of it fight hundred had registered up to list evening, a number per day being rather on the increase. Large this number may seem, there are a great many more the city who have not reported, but who are known the military authorities, and have been or will be hand over to the police, to be brought up to "show car why," whom they will find it much the worse for the scives. string of applicants are waiting in the reception room

In noticing the errest of John Kean and Fleury Sm at the Navy Yard, for stesling copper, lead, &c., credit was given to Captain John F. Waugh, in charge the York atreet entrance to the yard. The credit belo to John Smith, captain of pelice of the yard, and John Rose, assistant gate keeper, who made the arrests.

the Senate chamber. Edward Everett was chosen I sident, and Whiting Griswold, Secretary, The Coll. DABOLL'S FOG TRUMPET FOR SCOTLAND .- We learn &

Scotland, for one of his fog signals, with the caloric engattachment. The same is to be created at the Cumb Light House-a very exposed and dangerous place

received such information from England as placed is signal far in advance of any other for signal, and accor-ingly the authorities of Scotland have thus honored I Daboll with an order for one of his improved eights nich fog machines.

Now, while the Old World is moving to advance

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